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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE: 25X1C

SUBJECT The CDU and the Volkskongress;
Jacob Kaiser's Last StandDIST. 19
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ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

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1. Russian attempts to force official CDU participation in the Volkskongress were foiled by Jacob Kaiser who prevailed upon the Executive Committee to refuse such participation unanimously. In view of the great pressure put on prominent individual CDU members in the Russian Zone it was agreed that they might attend as individuals.
2. Unable to obtain the support of either Kaiser or Lemmer, the SMA picked Otto Nuschke as the next most influential person in the CDU. Nuschke attempted to avoid the Russians since he knew their intention; however, Capt. Kratin managed to contact him at CDU Headquarters and summoned him to Karlshorst. Here he was instructed by Col. Tulpanov in the role he was to play at the Volkskongress. Nuschke pointed out that he had voted against CDU participation and that he supported Kaiser 100%. Tulpanov declared that his opinion is immaterial, that this is a question of high diplomacy, that Molotov stands as the sole champion of German unity in London, and that he requires the support of all Germans. Nuschke finally accepted this argument.
3. Pieck, Kùlz, and Lieutenant then met with Nuschke and assigned him his speech for the Volkskongress and his place in the delegation.
4. Within the CDU Nuschke now takes the line that Kaiser should resign because it is impossible to gain any concessions for the CDU so long as Kaiser remains in charge.

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Comment:

Karlshorst reports that Moscow has decreed that Kaiser must fall. Karlshorst reportedly questioned the wisdom of this decree and put off its execution in the belief that no substitute can be found for Kaiser. Unable to postpone the step much longer, Karlshorst is trying to ease Kaiser out by some face-saving measure which will allow him to remain on good terms with the SMA and thus be available for further use. Still another source reports that Kaiser would be given a job in one of the Central Administrations.

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Among the concessions promised are increased circulation for the Neue Zeit, permission to form factory groups, and licensing of a new party paper in Brandenburg.)

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5. It is reported that no attempt will be made to find a replacement for Kaiser. Instead a managing committee would be installed. It might consist of Lobedanz, Herwegen, and Lemmer. The first two are reported willing, but Lemmer's attitude is not clear. Some sources predict he will resign if Kaiser is ousted.
6. Throughout the Russian Zone extraordinary means were used to force CDU leaders to attend the Volkskongress and to revolt against Kaiser. Both Capt. Kratin and Col. Tulpanov visited CDU leaders in Saxony and Thuringia and the latter were also belabored by the local political officers. Although some 217 or 219 CDU members were thus forced to attend the Volkskongress, no more than a dozen rallied around Steidle in his attack on Kaiser. Georg Grosse of Thuringia, often described as a Russophile, called Steidle and Bachem liars and marched out of the conspiracy staged by Steidle at the Hotel Adlon on the night of 7 December. Of the 219 delegates only 40-50 had accepted the invitation to the Adlon and a large number of these followed Grosse's lead. The few remaining chose a committee to present Kaiser with its demand that the CDU officially endorse the Volkskongress. The committee members are:

Luitpold Steidle	(Vice President of Central Administration for Agriculture; member Freies Deutschland)
Nuschke	Brandenburg
Herwegen	Saxony-Anhalt - notorious tool of SMA
Bachem	Thuringia
Warning	Mecklenburg
Frau von der Esch	Women's League
Peter	Saxony

7. It is apparent that Karlshorst will not allow the Kaiser issue to drop thus. A meeting of state CDU chairmen with SMA political officers is scheduled for 16 December. This group, in contrast to the Executive Committee, will probably contain a definite majority willing to follow SMA suggestions.

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